

REMARKS

Applicant acknowledges and appreciates the courtesy of Ms. Lockett and Mr. Donovan in the telephone conferences of May 17, 2007. Upon the suggestion of Mr. Donovan, applicant has rewritten former claim 10 as new claim 14 to more clearly distinguish over the references and requests reconsideration of the claims.

Contrary to the examiner's position, there is no teaching in Orthey of a hollow non-organic frame or of easily removable panel members. Although it is conceded that Joseph does broadly teach the strengthening of an instrument to accommodate double strings, one would not look to a guitar structure to rebuild a zither.

It is believed that the application is in condition for allowance and notice thereof is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions, it is urged that she telephone the undersigned.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 07-1900.

Respectfully submitted,
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